

D-8174

SHANGHAI POLICE
8174
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Editor - Mr. L.V. Arnoldov.

EXPLOITATION OF RUSSIAN LABOUR

Yesterday a group of Russians called at the editorial offices of the "Shanghai Zaria" and again complained of the exploitation by certain persons of Russian workmen engaged for transportation of goods from districts situated in the war zone.

The "Shanghai Zaria" has already published an article bearing on this matter. Yesterday we were requested by our visitors to publish another note to the effect that the said exploitation is ^{or}pratised not by the firms themselves, but by their agents, who being employed by the firms concerned on fixed monthly salaries, still resort to the exploitation of workmen recruited through their medium.

For instance, the following incident took place yesterday:- a group of workmen was engaged on behalf of a certain firm at \$3 per day each. Upon arrival of these workers to the Garden Bridge they were approached by another group of Russians and were ⁵peruaded by the latter to refuse to work at \$3 per day. The employer not wishing to loose the workmen engaged immediately promised to pay them \$5 per day each.

We are requested by Russian workmen employed for transportation of goods to emphasize that they do not complain against the various firms for which they are working, but wish to bring to the notice of their employers the fact that a lion's share of the money paid by them for the work done is retained by their agents.

Our visitors intend to publish a similar note in the foreign press.

A. P. Kojan

D. S. I.

Reference: File D-8174

File
DBR
5/11

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S.I. Special Branch. *Section*

REPORT

Date. November 4, 1937.

Subject. Reported agitation amongst Russian workmen on The Bund.

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev.

Forwarded by *C. G. ...*

With reference to the attached report dated 31-10-37 (C.I. Misc. File No. 143/37), I have to state that recently there has been a certain amount of dissatisfaction among Russian workmen employed by various firms for transportation of goods from the area North of Soochow Creek.

From enquiries made among the workmen it appears that the dissatisfaction arose after they had realised that they were unduly exploited by certain transportation agencies and foremen through the medium of which they were recruited. In this connection it is alleged that on some occasions foremen etc. retained as much as 50% of the money paid by the firms for the work done.

During the later part of September an unsuccessful attempt was made by foremen of several groups of workmen to organize an employment bureau where various firms could obtain workmen at \$5 per day, and out of this money 10% would be deducted by the bureau.

A "Foreign Employment Bureau" established by W.A. White & Co., Ltd. 81 Jinkee Road early in October engages workmen at \$3 per day on a commission basis (10% plus 20 cents registration fees). For various reasons it has not been very popular.

It is reported that as a result of agitation a group of workmen (mostly those who do not belong to organized groups) agreed among themselves to refuse to work at less than \$5 per day. This led to the incident referred to in the attached report when all workmen proceeding to the Eastern District when passing the Garden Bridge were asked by pickets as to the amount of pay they were to receive and attempts were made to persuade them not



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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

- 2 -

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

to accept less than \$5 per day.

According to information to hand, a re-occurrence of such incidents is not unlikely and, owing to the presence among the workmen of bad characters, these incidents may develop into brawls. Several unscrupulous foremen are reported to have been recently assaulted by those workmen in the French Concession.

Of the two individuals referred to in the attached report as agitators N.A.Vishinsky has a long criminal record, while there is nothing in the Municipal Police records against Shipovsky.

Observation will be kept on the situation.

A. Prokopen

D. S. I.

D.C.(Special Branch).

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By Smoy

Workmen's Problem

As everyone knows Russians are being at present hired for the transportation of goods from those districts of Shanghai which are occupied by Japanese troops and where Chinese are not allowed. But unfortunately the actual hiring of this manpower is sometimes done by individuals who reap large profits from the deal. Many firms assign \$7 or \$8 or even \$10 a day per man, but the workmen themselves receive only as little as \$4 or even \$3 each for work which often entails great personal danger, while the rest of the money goes into the pockets of those astute people who adroitly profit on the exploitation of human labour. In order to protect their interests Russian workmen are thinking of appealing to the Municipal authorities.

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HEADQUARTERS CRIME BRANCH
C. I. MISCELLANEOUS FILE
FM. 2
G. 45M-1-38
No. 143/37
Date Oct 31, 1937

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 876

REPORT

H. S. C. B. Station, 37
Date Oct. 31, 1937.

Subject..... EXPECTED TROUBLE AMONGST RUSSIAN LABOURERS ON THE BUND.

Made by..... D.S.I. Maklaevsky Forwarded by..... C.D.I. Prince.

Sir,

Between 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. the 31.10.37,
D.S.I. Konovaloff and the undersigned kept observation amongst
Russian labourers congregated on the Bund, but no untoward
incident occurred.

Two Russians, namely, Vishinski and Shipovsky,
both well known loafers of N.F.A. were observed attempting to
agitate amongst the workers for higher wages. They, however, did
not gain any sympathy from the workers assembled there.

After being cautioned by Insp. Brownrigg, they
discontinued their agitation and left the Bund.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

Maklaevsky
D.S.I.



for Prince
C.D.I.

D.C. (Crime).

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HEADQUARTERS CRIME BRANCH

143/27

10/31/37

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acc. (Special Branch)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

H. Q. C. B. Station,

Date Oct. 31, 1937.

Subject... PECTED TROUBLE AMONGST RUSSIAN LABOURERS ON THE BUND.

Made by... I. Maklaevsky Forwarded by... C.D.I. Prince.

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I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

I. Maklaevsky
D.S.I.

Prince

D.C. (Crime).

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